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## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*A history of England and the British empire.* By Arthur D. Innes, sometime scholar of Oriel College, Oxford. Volume IV (1802-1914). (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1915. 604 p. \$1.60)

It was Mr. Innes' plan to write a history which should not be limited to English affairs in the narrower sense but should trace the development of the kingdom and the empire of which England is the central fact. Accordingly he has, especially in his second and third volumes, dealt largely with the affairs of the British Isles outside England, particularly with those of Scotland. In the present volume which concludes the series, the author does not find much to say about Scotland but gives considerable space to Irish and imperial problems. Mr. Innes virtually closes his history with the end of the Boer war in 1902, but he has added a fairly adequate summary of events to 1911 and an "epilogue" which carries the narrative down to the outbreak of the present European war. On these recent subjects the author has striven to write objectively and to suppress what personal opinions he may have as to the wisdom or unwisdom of policies and measures; he makes an exception, however, of the present war, which he characterizes as "the most tremendous, the most critical, and the most righteous in the annals of mankind." The work is almost wholly a compilation and professes to be little else; but it is written by a historian of fame and merit, and though it shows traces of having been somewhat hurriedly composed, it will prove a useful addition to the literature of English history.

L. M. LARSON

*The British empire.* Six lectures. By Sir Charles P. Lucas, K. C. B., K. C. M. G. (London: Macmillan and Company, Limited, 1915. 250 p. \$.80)

This volume consists of a set of lectures addressed to the workingmen of England with the expectation of inducing them to give a more hearty support to the empire in the present crisis. An introductory chapter deals with the earliest beginnings of British sea power; then follows a series of surveys on English imperial growth from the seventeenth century to the present, with a concluding chapter on "The meaning and use of the empire." In the latter, Mr. Lucas makes a fair analysis of

the motives that have entered into the building of the empire, in order to show that it is not a creation of force and fraud, but an achievement born of varied motives, many of them of unquestioned nobility; and that it confers tangible benefits upon the workingmen as well as upon the richer classes of England, upon the non-British elements that are embraced within the empire as well as upon Englishmen.

A. C. C.

*George the Third and Charles Fox*: the concluding part of the American revolution. By the Right Hon. Sir George Otto Trevelyan, Bart., O. M. Volume II. (New York and London: Longmans, Green, and Company, 1914. 433 p. \$2.25 net)

The volume maintains the high standard of scholarship and of literary ability of those which preceded it. Readers will search in vain for a history of the American revolution which will equal this work of Sir George Trevelyan in sustaining interest or one from which a better perspective of the civil war between Great Britain and her colonies can be obtained. The interpretation is governed throughout by an imperial viewpoint rather than by the usual narrow colonial outlook.

This volume covers the period of the closing years of the war. The principal military events described in detail are connected with the southern campaign which ended in the surrender of Cornwallis. In spite of a few minor errors the narrative is most satisfactory both in its treatment of military affairs and in its description of economic and social conditions. Great praise is given to General Greene, though the final estimate is that he was not "a general of the first order." In this part of his story the author is particularly happy in his account of the partisan warfare; he deserves credit for not having exaggerated its cruelties.

Sir George is at his best, however, in his discussion of British politics during the period, in spite of a very noticeable partiality for old whigs. He has studied his contemporary sources so carefully and thoroughly that the politicians of the circle of George III have become intimate acquaintances, whose portraits he depicts with rare literary skill. He understands the conditions of the time and realizes fully that the policies of the cabinet "were settled for it by an inner Cabinet of Bedfords, sitting over their burgundy in Lord Sandwich's parlour." Some of the pictures of these worthies are most excellent. Here is an example. "Throughout the American war, and the seven years that preceded it, Rigby was a power of the first order in Parliament. With the skill of a born actor he made himself up for the part of an independent English gentleman of the old school,—a conspicuous and most characteristic figure in his close-buttoned suit of purple cloth, unrelieved by lace or